

Jerome C. Hauke
Registered Civil Engineer
License No C13071
P. O. Box 400
Douglas City, CA 96024

May 19, 2003

Trinity River Restoration Program
P.O. Box 1300,
Weaverville, CA 96093

RE: Draft EA/EIR Trinity River Bridges Project
Salt Flat Bridge--Comment Number Three

Trinity River Restoration Project		
RECEIVED		
MAY 22 2003		
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION		
Trinity River Restoration Program		
152		
153		
150		
Files 151		

Gentlemen:

The Proposed Action proposes to gift the new one million dollar 'weathering steel' bridge to the Salt Flat Property Owners Association for ownership and long term maintenance. What criteria will Trinity County and the Bureau of Reclamation use to determine as to whether the Salt Flat Property Owners Association has the proper organizational and financial structure for the long term maintenance of such a structure?

a.

Will the Salt Flat Homeowners Association be required to form a special assessment district with tax powers to guarantee proper maintenance of the new structure? Will the new bridge be placed under the temporary trusteeship of the County or the Lewiston Community Services District until a special bridge maintenance district is formed.

b.

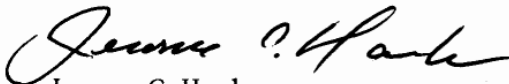
The bridge and approach guardrails are to be built using maintenance free 'weathering steel'. Manufacturers of 'weathering steel' and designers of structures using 'weathering steel' tout it as maintenance free. Bridge and highway maintenance workers tasked with maintaining such structures hate the stuff.

c.

Small quantities of 'weathering steel' for minor repairs are difficult to purchase. Connectors made of 'weathering steel' cannot be found at the local hardware store. 'Weathering steel' nuts and bolts rust on the storeroom shelf and are very difficult to bolt together at the repair site. 'Weathering steel' connectors in the field rust together and cannot be unbolted, they must be cut out with a torch.

This is a gift horse that needs to have all its teeth examined.

Sincerely yours,


Jerome C. Hauke

cc: Arnold Whitridge, Chairman, TAMWG

RESPONSE TO COMMENT: 39

Jerome C. Hauke

39-a: Thank you for your comments. The Proposed Action replaces an existing private bridge with a new private bridge designed to provide safe access across the river during extreme high-flow events. The new private bridge will likely require less deferred-maintenance than the existing bridge for both environmental and use-related degradation. Trinity County and the Bureau of Reclamation will make no determination regarding the organizational or financial structure of the Salt Flat Property Owners Association or the association's ability to provide long-term maintenance.

39-b: No to both questions.

39-c: Weathering steel is not "maintenance-free" and guidelines for implementing weathering steel as bridge structural material include using appropriate design details and performing regular maintenance. Maintenance procedures should include inspection of the drainage system and periodic removal of collected dirt or debris that may act to collect moisture. Weathering steel is an appropriate material for bridge construction in the relatively dry, non-marine climate of Trinity County. The primary construction and maintenance advantages of weathering steel are related to reduced costs and environmental impacts of initial paint coatings and subsequent stripping and painting.